

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 045503

61

ORIGIN NODS-00

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66011

DRAFTED BY: EA:RHMILLER:AOA

APPROVED BY: EA:RHMILLER

S/S-MR. ORTIZ

----- 005149

P 252135Z FEB 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 045503

NODIS

CHEROKEE WELLINGTON FOR ASST SECY HABIB ONLY

FOLLOWING REPEAT MANILA 2664 ACTION SECSTATE 25 FEB 76.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 2664

NODIS/CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RP, US

SUBJECT: EXCHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN PRESIDENTS  
FORD AND MARCOS

1. DURING PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT TO MANILA IN DECEMBER OF  
LAST YEAR, HE ARRANGED WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS THAT THE TWO  
CHIEFS OF STATE SHOULD OCCASIONALLY EXCHANGE CORRESPONDENCE  
ON ISSUES OF MUTUAL INTEREST. THE ARRANGEMENT WAS COUCHED  
IN SUCH TERMS THAT IT IS INCUMBENT ON PRESIDENT FORD TO  
INITIATE THE CORRESPONDENCE.

2. THE ASEAN SUMMIT MEETING APPARS TO CONSTITUTE AN  
APPROPRIATE OCCASION FOR AN OPENING FORAY IN THIS EXCHANGE  
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PAGE 02 STATE 045503

OF STATELY CORRESPONDENCE. I HAVE PREPARED A DRAFT LETTER

WHICH IS INCORPORATED AS PARAGRAPH THREE OF THIS CABLE.  
IF THE PRESIDENT APPROVES THIS PROPOSAL, PLEASE CABLE THE  
EXACT TEXT FOR MY EARLIEST DELIVERY TO PRESIDENT MARCOS.  
ONE OF THE FEATURES OF THE CORRESPONDENCE ARRANGEMENT  
BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTS WAS THAT THE MESSAGES IN BOTH  
DIRECTIONS WOULD BE PASSED THROUGH THIS EMBASSY.

3. THE PROPOSED TEXT IS AS FOLLOWS:

"DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

"NOW THAT YOU AND THE OTHER ASEAN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT  
HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED YOUR FIRST SUMMIT MEETING, IT  
IS INCUMBENT ON THOSE OF US WHO WISH YOU WELL TO EXAMINE  
THE WAYS IN WHICH WE CAN BEST ASSIST YOU TO ACHIEVE YOUR  
COMMON OBJECTIVES. I AM SENSITIVE TO THE FACT THAT THE  
UNITED STATES, IN FACING THIS ISSUE, MUST MOVE WITH  
PARTICULAR CARE SO THAT OUR ACTIONS AND OUR MOTIVES WILL  
NOT BE MISCONSTRUED.

"AS I TOLD YOU WHEN I VISITED MANILA LAST DECEMBER, I  
WOULD LIKE, FROM TIME TO TIME, TO SEEK YOUR COUNSEL ON  
MATTERS SUCH AS THIS. BECAUSE THE PHILIPPINES IS OUR  
OLDEST ALLY IN ASIA AND BECAUSE YOU, PERSONALLY, HAVE HAD  
SO MUCH EXPERIENCE IN DEALING WITH AMERICANS, I BELIEVE YOU  
CAN UNDERSTAND BETTER THAN OTHERS THE PROBLEMS WE CONFRONT.

"ESSENTIALLY, WE WISH TO MOVE IN SUCH A WAY THAT WE  
WILL ENHANCE THE PROSPECTS FOR ASEAN SUCCESS, WHILE, AT  
THE SAME TIME, AVOIDING SUCH AN ENTHUSIASTIC EMBRACE THAT  
IT MAY PROVE EMBARRASSING TO THE MEMBER STATES. THERE HAVE  
ALREADY BEEN ACCUSATIONS, ESPECIALLY FROM HANOI, THAT ASEAN  
IS A 'CREATURE OF THE UNITED STATES'. WHILE YOU AND I  
KNOW THE ABSURDITY OF SUCH ALLEGATIONS, THERE MAY BE OTHERS  
IN QUARTERS OF INTEREST TO ASEAN WHO WOULD BE DECEIVED BY  
SUCH MISCHIEVOUS PROPOGANDA.

"THEREFORE, BEFORE I INITIATE ANY STEPS WITH RESPECT  
TO ASEAN, I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR CANDID VIEWS ON THE BEST  
WAY FOR US TO PROCEED. THERE HAVE, FOR EXAMPLE, BEEN  
SUGGESTIONS THAT THE UNITED STATES AND ASEAN SHOULD  
FORMALLY INITIATE ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS IN MUCH THE SAME  
WAY AS THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY AND ASEAN HAVE DONE.  
THERE HAVE BEEN OTHER SUGGESTIONS WHICH WOULD ENTAIL PUBLIC  
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PAGE 03 STATE 045503

STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT AND ENDORSEMENT BY THE UNITED STATES  
FOR POSITIONS ESPOUSED BY ASEAN. THERE MAY BE STILL  
FURTHER SUGGESTIONS WHICH HAVE NOT YET BEEN BROUGHT TO MY  
ATTENTION.

"PLEASE GIVE ME YOUR ADVICE AND JUDGMENT, WHICH I WILL  
FIND VALUABLE AND WHICH I SHALL TREAT WITH CONFIDENTIALITY  
AND DISCRETION.

"WITH WARMEST PERSONAL REGARDS TO YOU AND MRS. MARCOS,

I AM

"SINCERELY.

"GERALD FORD"

SULLIVAN UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
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